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17. [] ADMINISTRATIVE - DELIVERIES

Dropped off with Guy McConnell, on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a letter from the Director to Senator John McClellan (D., Ark.), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Also dropped off a copy of the same letter with Austin Smith for Representative George Mahon (D., Texas), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense, House Appropriations Committee, for the information of the Chairman.

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18. [] LIAISON Called Senator Milton

Young (R., N. Dak.) and thanked him for his efforts in helping us to keep the [] program. I told him that the President had personally reviewed the program and approved it.

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19. [] LIAISON Received a call from George

Murphy, Executive Director, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, who said that there was an article in the Chicago Tribune this morning stating that somewhere in the Soviet Union there is now a big hole where something used to be. The Chicago Tribune stated that they have reports that a fast breeder reactor had exploded. I told him that I would check and get back to him. After checking with [] OSI, I told Murphy that we were aware of the rumor but had no information to support it. I added that ERDA issued a press release to this effect.

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20. [] LIAISON Called Dan Spiegel, Legislative

Assistant to Senator Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.), to ask for the Senator's assistance regarding Senator George McGovern's (D., S. Dak.) amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act which would preclude all covert actions in

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[] I told Spiegel that, as he knew, Senator Humphrey was very much involved in the floor debate of Section 662 last year and expressed concern about the need for maintaining security. Spiegel suggested that the Senator would be very responsive to a call from Mr. Colby. I agreed and told Spiegel that I would suggest to Mr. Colby that he call the Senator and discuss this matter with him directly.

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21. [] ADMINISTRATIVE Called Russ Rourke, in the office of John Marsh, Counsellor to the President, about the call received from Guy McConnell, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense staff, concerning the George Lardner column in this morning's Chicago Tribune which states that the 40 Committee did not meet between 1972 and 1974. I said the Director always indicates that our covert actions are based on 40 Committee approval and McConnell said the column casts some doubt on the effectiveness of the procedure. Chairman McClellan wants a letter commenting on the column and stating just what the facts are. I said I felt that the NSC staff should be aware of this request and our response to Chairman McClellan. Rourke agreed and said he would advise Marsh. I said we would draw up a statement for Chairman McClellan and send it to Rob Roy Ratliff, Les Janka, both of NSC, and Marsh for their approval. Rourke agreed. This was done later in the day with a request for their comments by the end of today.

22. [] Clark McFadden, General Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, called and said Chairman John Stennis wants to pursue the Soviet defense spending controversy as soon as he returns from the hospital. I explained that we had prepared a number of different papers on the subject which we would provide to him. He said if we would have [] OCL, get in touch with him, maybe he could smooth this out with the Chairman.

I mentioned to McFadden the Lardner column in today's Chicago Tribune concerning the 40 Committee not having met between 1972 and 1974. I said that they do not actually meet, but when there is a covert activity up for approval, they are normally polled. McFadden commented that their Committee operates the same way. He said they are often accused of not having enough meetings, but they poll the members for different matters and this saves a lot of time.

McFadden said he had breakfast with Bill Miller, SSC staff, this morning and Miller told him the SSC is trying to get their reports out in December and then in February. McFadden said he didn't have much confidence in that. He said the SSC is trying to get the oversight legislation out first and then will get to revising the charters. McFadden told Miller this was a mistake. I mentioned the action being taken by the Senate Government Operations Committee and he said Paul Hoff gave him an outline of about 60 issues they are going to go over relating to oversight.

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